

BOS Agenda
Consent
09-10-07

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23

John Murray

From: Lauren Rosenzweig
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2007 6:24 PM
To: Dore' Hunter
Cc: Manager Department; 'KENT SHARP'
Subject: Consent Agenda Item 9/10 Revised

Hi Dore':

John Murray pointed out to me that Finance Committee members are prohibited from serving on any standing committee that deals with town expenditures. The Economic Development Committee has been reconvened on an "as-needed" basis, so I am more comfortable appointing Kent as the Finance Committee Representative in an observer/advisory role for the period of **one** year rather than the 3 years in my prior e-mail. I am not sure if the need for the EDC will continue past this April's Town Meeting, and I want to give Kent a heads up that this restriction exists in the town bylaw.

Sincerely,

Lauren

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9/6/2007

Maryjane Kenney

From: Lauren Rosenzweig
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2007 2:12 PM
To: 'KENT SHARP'
Cc: Patricia Clifford; Manager Department; Dore' Hunter
Subject: RE: Consent Agenda Item 9/10 Revised

Hi Kent,

I think the points you bring up re: standing committee and that the EDC is not directly involved in expending any town funds are extremely valid. We have put the item on the agenda as appointing you as the Finance Committee member of the EDC for a period of one year. The one year term will just give all of us a chance to re-evaluate whether the EDC should continue on past the issues we are currently addressing, or again disband. I think the intent here was more to check in that everyone was aware of the bylaw and that there is agreement that the EDC doesn't really involve itself with the expenditure of town funds, but rather makes recommendations to the Selectmen related to diversifying the tax base.

Pending board approval, I look forward to having you on the committee.

Sincerely,

Lauren

From: KENT SHARP [mailto:kentjsharp@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2007 8:58 AM
To: Lauren Rosenzweig
Cc: Pat Clifford; manager@acton-ma.gov; Dore Hunter
Subject: Re: Consent Agenda Item 9/10 Revised

I guess I'm okay with this - but since I'm also somewhat analytical, I do think of a couple of questions:

What is a "standing committee"? According to wikipedia: "A **standing committee** is a subunit of a political or deliberative body established in a permanent fashion to aid the parent assembly in accomplishing its duties. A standing committee is usually granted jurisdiction over a particular area of legislation by the parent body." As you point out, this committee is a "as-needed" function - so that doesn't sound very permanent - plus I assume that the committee will make recommendations that will need to be approved by others, and therefore doesn't really have jurisdiction over expenditures.

The actual phrase from the bylaws is "having to do with the expenditure of town funds". So I guess that doesn't require an actual authority to spend funds - but it's so broad that I would assume it could be interpreted as not being a member of any standing committee. So, if school funds are included in "town funds", and the SPED report update committee is a standing committee, then it would seem that neither Allen nor I should be on that committee - since the recommendations of the committee could impact the use of school funds. If the SPED committee isn't a standing committee, then how does that differ from EDC? (I can't find anything in the doc site about the EDC charter, etc.)

I'm not really trying to be overly picky and argumentative, but it seems that given the number of bylaws related to Fincom that haven't really been followed for the past few years - like quarterly reports containing specified data, presentations of budgets to town meeting, etc., - it seems like we're being selective (aka picky) in the enforcement.

- Kent

----- Original Message -----

From: Lauren Rosenzweig <lrs57@comcast.net>

9/7/2007

To: Dore' Hunter <DoreHunter@aol.com>
Cc: manager@acton-ma.gov; KENT SHARP <kentjsharp@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 6, 2007 6:24:04 PM
Subject: Consent Agenda Item 9/10 Revised

Hi Dore':

John Murray pointed out to me that Finance Committee members are prohibited from serving on any standing committee that deals with town expenditures. The Economic Development Committee has been reconvened on an "as-needed" basis, so I am more comfortable appointing Kent as the Finance Committee Representative in an observer/advisory role for the period of **one** year rather than the 3 years in my prior e-mail. I am not sure if the need for the EDC will continue past this April's Town Meeting, and I want to give Kent a heads up that this restriction exists in the town bylaw.

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9/7/2007

CHAPTER B

TOWN AGENCIES & OFFICERS

B1. Structure of the Finance Committee

There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of nine (9) voters of the Town. The committee shall be appointed by the Moderator in the following manner: three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year; three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years; and three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, each appointment shall be for a term of three (3) years.

B2. Restriction on Finance Committee Members

No member of the Finance Committee shall serve on any other standing committee having to do with the expenditure of town funds.

B3. Duties of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall consider any and all municipal questions for the purpose of making reports and recommendations. Without restricting the general intent of the foregoing, the Finance Committee shall include in its duties the review of and recommendations concerning the budget for the annual meeting, the review of and recommendations concerning any other matter of a financial nature arising at the annual meeting or at any special meeting, and the preparation of long range fiscal plans for the Town.

B4. Procedure of the Finance Committee

Before making recommendations concerning the budget for the annual meeting, as prescribed in Section 3 of this Article, the Finance Committee shall hold one (1) or more hearings with the Board of Selectmen.

B5. Appointment of the Police Chief

The Town Manager shall appoint a Chief of Police and shall have the general supervision over the Police Department.